

S E C R E T

August 1, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Group (CI)
2 p.m., Thursday, August 1, 1963

PRESENT: Governor Harriman, The Attorney General, Mr. Murrow, Mr. Bundy
vice Mr. Gilpatric, Mr. Helms vice Mr. McCone, General Krulak
vice General Taylor, Mr. Wolf vice Mr. Bell

NSC REVIEW
COMPLETED,
6/26/2003

Ambassador Martin, Mr. Koren, Mr. Brewster and Mr. Posts were
present for Item No. 1.

Mr. Belcher and Mr. Rogers were present for Item No. 2.

Mr. Engle was present for Items 1 and 2.

Mr. Maechling and Mr. Nolan were present for the meeting.

1. Progress Report on the Internal Defense Plan for Thailand

Mr. Koren presented a summary review of the progress report and pointed out that, in general, progress toward achieving our internal security goals is satisfactory. The shortage of trained Thai leaders presents a continuing problem in connection with many aspects of the Internal Security Plan. U.S. supported training to reduce this shortage appears to be sound and this effort will be evaluated at a future date to determine if more should be done in this area.

Youth programs continue to reflect progress with well established objectives and the means are available to pursue these programs. There are indicators that Thai leaders are becoming aware of the nature of the Communist internal security threat and recent trips into remote areas by Sarit have created a favorable reaction among the people. Lack of initiative of lower echelons of the Thai bureaucracy continues to be a factor impeding progress.

The Attorney General suggested that the Thai Government should be encouraged to begin planning for the organizing of labor unions. The Chairman requested Ambassador Martin to take another look at both the labor and youth programs when he arrives in his post. The Attorney General commented that the Group has been concerned that projects in Thailand were being implemented slower than had been anticipated, and invited Ambassador Martin to inform the Group on matters where he believes its assistance would be of value.

Mr. Bundy mentioned the problem of funding future operations of the Mobile Development Units. These units are currently supported by MAP and he hopes that AID will be able to support this program in the future. Mr. Wolf responded that this subject will be reviewed when the entire rural development program is reviewed by AID. Mr. Bundy invited the Group's attention to the Country Team's views on reorienting our MAP program in

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2.

Thailand to place more emphasis on counterinsurgency rather than conventional capabilities.

The Attorney General in commenting on the problem of identifying insurgents in the Northeast, pointed out that the Country Team, in a recent cable, has requested assistance in getting this program moving. Mr. Koren stated that the Thais lack a sense of urgency in pursuing this program. He suggested that we get a quick survey underway using personnel available in Viet-Nam to see where the program can be improved. It was brought out that this has been strictly a Thai supported program as opposed to the program in Viet-Nam which has been supported by the U.S., utilizing AID funds. It was also recommended that we take steps to create understanding within the Thai police on how a registration program can be of assistance to control subversive elements. Technical assistance provided to the police on this matter would be a good way to accomplish this purpose.

In noting the progress report, the Group requested Mr. Koren to report back to the Group on September 1, on the status of the registration program.

2. Review of the Internal Security Situation in Bolivia

Mr. Belcher informed the Group on recent developments in Bolivia and stated that the latest information indicates that a crisis may develop the weekend of 2 to 4 August. As far as it can be determined the Bolivian Government is believed capable of coping with the crisis. He then reviewed the status of contingency planning.

The Chairman requested Mr. Belcher to keep the Group informed on developments.

3. Counterinsurgency War Games

General Krulak informed the Group on the rationale and planning for the conduct of a counterinsurgency war game. He pointed out that this is the first time that a war game will be conducted on cold war or counterinsurgency situations. Senior participation is requested for the 5 days the war game will be conducted. The war game is now planned for the period 7 - 11 Oct.

It was agreed that each agency represented on the Special Group would participate in this exercise, and a point of contact would be designated for this project. General Krulak should be informed of such designations as soon as possible.

James W. Dingeman

James W. Dingeman
Executive Secretary
Special Group (CI)

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